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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Letter dated 13 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration of the International Relations Committee of the National Assembly of the People's Power of the Republic of Cuba on the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, adopted in Havana on 6 October 2017 (see annex).

In this regard, I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42.

(*Signed*) Anayansi **Rodríguez Camejo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Declaration of the International Relations Committee of the People's National Assembly of Cuba against the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

The International Relations Committee of the People's National Assembly of Cuba has issued the following statement against the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba:

We, the members of the People's National Assembly who are members of the International Relations Committee,

Recalling that the economic, commercial and financial embargo of the United States against Cuba, since it was first imposed in October 1960, seeks to overthrow the Revolutionary Government and to bring Cuba back to the relationship of subordination to which it was subjected between 1898 and 1958;

Recalling that, in April 1960, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Lester D. Mallory, wrote in a secret memorandum: "The majority of Cubans support Castro ... The only foreseeable means of alienating internal support is through disenchantment and disaffection based on economic dissatisfaction and hardship ... every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba ... a line of action which, while as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, makes the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government";

Recalling that, in 1996, the embargo was given the status of law, so that the sanctions against Cuba would be sustained over time;

Recognizing that the embargo is a massive and flagrant violation of the human rights of the Cuban people and the greatest impediment to the development of Cuba's economy and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Noting that the accumulated losses caused by the embargo during the nearly six decades that it has been in place is US$ 822.28 billion, taking into account the depreciation of the dollar against the price of gold on the international market, and that, at current prices, the embargo has caused quantifiable losses of more than US$ 130,178,600,000. Between April 2016 and June 2017 alone, the embargo has caused Cuba losses of approximately US$ 4,305,400,000;

Emphasizing that the financial and extraterritorial aspects of the law have been maintained, with the imposition of fines on foreign companies that have commercial relations with Cuba, as well as a refusal by banks and international financial institutions to conduct transactions with the island for fear of being fined;

Knowing that the human and economic losses caused by the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba are increasing;

Emphasizing that, since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly has referred, in 25 resolutions, to the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America

against Cuba, and that 191 States Members of the United Nations supported the most recent resolution on that subject, 71/5, adopted on 26 October 2016;

Knowing that there has been a setback in bilateral relations between the United States and Cuba and that the United States Government has decided to tighten the economic, commercial and financial embargo by imposing new obstacles to the already limited possibilities of its business community to trade with and invest in Cuba and additional restrictions on its citizens regarding travel to our country;

Hereby declare that:

We reject any policy that is contrary to the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations;

We condemn the economic, trade and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States of America;

We invite the United States Congress to heed the feeling of the majority in broad sectors of United States society who advocate an end to the embargo, and thus an end to this unwieldy policy against Cuba;

We call on parliamentarians around the world to strengthen the international call to put an end to this policy that is detrimental to the rights of the Cuban people; and

We call on the parliamentarians of all nations to support their respective foreign ministries in supporting the draft resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", which will be presented once again to the General Assembly on 1 November.

Havana, 6 October 2017